



News from

# Congressman Ron Kind

REPRESENTING WISCONSIN'S THIRD  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

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## KIND CALLS ON PRESIDENT TO HONOR PLEDGE TO WISCONSIN FARMERS TO REAUTHORIZE MILC

*Presidential Leadership Lacking as Important Safety Net Nears Expiration*

**Washington, DC** – U.S. Rep. Ron Kind (D-WI) called on President Bush to act now, before Congress adjourns for the August district work period, to honor his word to work with Congress to reauthorize the Milk Income Loss Compensation (MILC) program, an important safety net for Wisconsin's dairy farmers. The program expires on September 30, 2005. The letter to the President below:

July 26, 2005

President George W. Bush  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President,

In an October 7, 2004 address to a Wisconsin audience, you stated your support for extending Milk Income Loss Compensation (MILC) for two more years, saying that you will work with Congress to reauthorize the program "so Wisconsin dairy farmers and dairy farmers all across the country can count on the support they need." Unfortunately, despite bipartisan attempts in Congress to extend contracts for national dairy market loss payments through the end of fiscal year 2007 (H.R.859), this safety net for dairy farmers is set to expire September 30, 2005.

As you know, the Milk Income Loss Contract Program is the first national dairy program to transcend the usual regional tensions that have arisen over past safety net proposals. The MILC provides a basic level of direct support to all dairy operations by providing assistance only on the first 2.4 million pounds of milk produced annually. As a result, nearly 86 percent of all dairy farms in the country, and nearly 90 percent in the Upper Midwest, are fully eligible for assistance under this limit.

Mr. President, I urge you to take immediate, affirmative action to support the two-year extension of the MILC program to help our nation's dairy farmers survive when milk prices plummet. While it is Congress' role to amend current law, it is clear your leadership on this issue would be the impetus needed to pass this important bill and allow you to keep your word to America's dairy farmers.

Sincerely,  
Ron Kind, Member of Congress